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Letter dated 27 August 1999 from the Permanent Representative of
Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to our letter dated 29 July 1999, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 28 July 1999, as well as on 4, 17, 19 and 22 August 1999.

On 28 July, one C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The aircraft in question violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia before exiting in a southeasterly direction.

On 4 August, one C-130, as well as two C-160 Turkish military aircraft, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The C-130 and one C-160 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia before exiting in a southeasterly direction. The second C-160 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria before landing at 1236 hours at the illegal airport of Tymbou, in the occupied area of the Republic, whence it departed at 1711 hours, returning to the FIR of Ankara.

On 17 August, one BE20 Turkish aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The aircraft in question violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at 0954 hours at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic, whence it departed at 1513 hours, returning to the FIR of Ankara.

On 19 August, one F-4 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The F-4 violated the national



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airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia before exiting in a southeasterly direction.

On 22 August, one BE20 Turkish aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The aircraft in question violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria before landing at 0857 hours at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic, whence it departed at 1006 hours, returning to the FIR of Ankara.

As stated in my previous letters, these Turkish unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules, and at the same time in contravention to the provisions of Security Council resolutions on Cyprus.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest these new provocative acts by Turkey, which demonstrate once more Turkey's blatant disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and all the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I would also like to underline that the present violations occurred after the adoption of Security Council resolution 1251 (1999), in which the Council called upon all States to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and to refrain from any action which might prejudice that sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. My Government expects that the Turkish side will show compliance with the provisions of Security Council resolutions.

Such provocative actions are not conducive to reducing tension and run counter to the initiative of the Secretary-General announced on 30 September 1998 within the framework of his Mission of Good Offices, with the goal of reducing tensions and promoting progress towards a just and lasting settlement in Cyprus.

Furthermore, the continuing overflights by the Turkish Air Force, as well as the presence of the Turkish military occupation forces on the island, constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

Sotos ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
